

The Willows Childcare



Special educational needs offer at The Willows Childcare

How The Willows recognises when children need extra help and what parents should do if they think their child has special educational needs (SEN).

Keyworkers observe children to assess their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to plan learning experiences for each child.

The progress a child makes is recorded in an EYFS tracker book where observations, pieces of the child's work and photos are documented. Each child's portfolio will be shaped by their unique and individual needs and interests as children develop at their own rate. These portfolios are shared regularly with the child's parents and The Willows staff value the feedback and contributions of parents.

Each child has an identified keyworker who establishes a relationship with the child and family. However all the staff at The Willows work collaboratively to observe and interact with the children in child-led and adult-led activities to support learning and development.

The keyworkers at The Willows work closely with the children to get to know them, with particular regard to their communication and language skills, understanding their needs, supporting the establishment of relationships and encouraging listening skills and expression of needs and feelings.

When a child is aged between two and three, The Willows reviews the child's progress and provides parents with a short written summary of their child's development in the form of a 2 year check. This focuses on communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. This progress check identifies the child's strengths and any areas where the child's progress is slower than expected. If there are significant emerging concerns (or identified SEN or disability) The Willows will develop a targeted plan to support the child, involving other professionals such as the Area SENCO (Special educational needs co-ordinator) or health professionals.

Children and parents are encouraged to visit the setting on several occasions prior to starting. Parents and children can get to know the environment, staff and other children.

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Staff are always available at collection time to discuss daily progress and needs. If a more formal or confidential meeting is required this can be arranged as necessary.

How The Willows will meet the learning needs of the children

The Willows will work in close partnership with the child's family, the child and other professionals in a cycle of 'plan, do and review'. A plan will be devised to support the child's progress and take into account the child's interests and opinions. The child's key worker is responsible alongside other practitioners at The Willows to implement the plan in communication with the child's family. The effectiveness of the support and its impact on the child's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date. The impact and quality of the support should be evaluated by the key worker and the SENCO working with the child's parents and taking into account the child's views. They will agree any changes to the outcomes and support for the child in light of the child's progress and development. Parents will have information about the impact of the support provided and be involved in planning next steps.

The Willows has a nominated SENCO who oversees the SEN provision ensuring the needs of all children are met to allow all children to reach their potential. The SENCO can co-ordinate liaison between parents and other professionals with respect to SEN needs and supports the other staff to meet the SEN of children. With prior consent The Willows may seek further advice from the Area SENCO, Health Visitors, Specialist Nurses and Speech and Language Therapy Service.

The Willows works closely with parents/carers to ensure provision can meet children's specific medical needs. We seek the advice of medical practitioners to ensure the care we provide meets the child's needs and allow them to develop and reach their potential.

Parents are advised to firstly approach their child's keyworker if they have any concerns. Further support can be gained from The Willows supervisor / SENCO (Jackie).

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Accessibility of The Willows.

The Willows is situated in Stenbridge, there are parking spaces available on the driveway. The Willows is accessible via 2 steps where a ramp can be used if necessary and the building is on one level.

The outside area is easily accessible, there is a grassy area as well as a patio area. The Willows encourages children to engage in outdoor activities that are both child-led and adult-led.

The activities are generally at child level and support could be given by children and adults to move equipment, if required.

Training and experience of practitioners

The Willows will review its provision for children with additional needs, SEN or medical needs. This will be discussed with the families of these children, other professionals and as part of its review of provision. We will seek further training of staff as required and review the resources and environment in response to the identified needs of children attending the setting.

The Willows works to establish and maintain a culture of high expectations. Those working with children and young people with SEN or disabilities aim to include them in all of the opportunities, so they can achieve well and have positive learning experiences at the setting.

Information about the setting can be found on our website.